

Alice Springs

OVERVIEW

Alice Springs is the second largest town in the Northern Territory of Australia. Popularly known as "the Alice" or simply "Alice", Alice Springs is situated in the geographic centre of Australia near the southern border of the Northern Territory. Alice Springs' population makes up 12 percent of the territory's population. Alice averages 576 metres (1,890 ft) above sea level. The town is nearly equidistant from Adelaide and Darwin.

The site is known as Mparntwe to its original inhabitants, the Arrernte, who have lived in the Central Australian desert in and around what is now Alice Springs for thousands of years. There are roughly 1,800 speakers of Eastern and Central Arrernte, which is taught in schools and heard in local media and local government. According to the 2006 census, Indigenous people make up approximately 18.8% of the population of Alice Springs and 27.8% of the Northern Territory, although the census figure for Alice Springs is likely to be an underestimate. As Alice Springs is the regional hub of Central Australia, it attracts Aboriginal people from all over that region and well beyond.

Distance from Adelaide	1,532 km
Population	27,481
Climate	- average maximum – 28.7°C - average minimum – 13.2°C - average annual rainfall – 279.2 mm

The town of Alice Springs straddles the usually dry Todd River on the northern side of the MacDonnell Ranges. The region where Alice Springs is located is known as Central Australia, or the Red Centre, and is an arid environment consisting of several different deserts. In Alice Springs, temperatures can vary by up to 28 °C and rainfall can vary quite dramatically from year to year. In summer, temperatures are often in the high 30s while - with an average of 12.4 nights below freezing every annum – winters can be fairly cold.

RFDS BASE

RFDS Base Location	Hangar: 28 Davis Drive, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870 Tourist Facility: Stuart Terrace, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
Contact	Phone: 08 8958 8400 Fax: 08 8958 8680 Email: enquiries@flyingdoctor.net
Clinical Coordination	Michael Toomey
RFDS Base Opened	1939
Service Area	1.25 million sq. km
RFDS Staff	42
RFDS Aircraft	4

HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Hospitals, GPs and Specialists

The Alice Springs Hospital is a public teaching hospital and offers general medical services, including day procedures, emergency, intensive care and high dependency, maternity, medical, outpatients, paediatric, special care nursery, surgical and mental health.

A list of GPs, medical centres and specialists can be found here: <http://www.doctors-4u.com/darwin/areas.htm>

Police

Emergencies	dial 000
Police Station	131 444 (from mobile: 1800 333 000)

AMENITIES

Secondary / Tertiary Education

Public primary schools:

Bradshaw Primary School
Braitling Primary School
Gillen Primary School
Larapinta Primary School
Ross Park Primary School
Sadadeen Primary School

Public high schools:

Centralian Middle School
Centralian Senior College

Other schools:

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College (Catholic school)
Alice Springs Steiner School (Steiner school)
Araluen Christian School (Christian school)
Living Waters Lutheran School (Lutheran school)
St Philip's College (Uniting school)
Yipirinya School (Independent school)
Yirara College (Lutheran school)
Acacia High School (other public school)
Alice Springs School of the Air (other public school)



Alice Springs

The Alice Springs Campus of Charles Darwin University offers courses in TAFE and higher education. The Centre for Appropriate Technology was established in 1980 and provides a range of services to encourage and help Aboriginal people enhance their quality of life in remote communities.

Services, Facilities, Sports

The Araluen Centre for Arts and Entertainment presents world-class ballets and orchestras, as well as local performances.

The Alice Springs Desert Park was created to educate visitors about the many facets of the surrounding desert environment. The Arid Climate Botanic Garden and Olive Pink Botanic Garden, is a short distance from the town centre.

The local stadium, Traeger Park, has a 10,000 seat capacity and was designed to host (pre-season) AFL and is currently home to the Northern Territory Thunder.

Cricket is another popular sport in Alice Springs and is also primarily played at Traeger Park. The Traeger Park sporting complex also hosts tennis, baseball, boxing, swimming, canoe polo, hockey, basketball, squash, badminton, gymnastics and skateboarding.

Shopping

Alice Springs and surrounding areas of Australia's Northern Territory (NT) have good shopping facilities and you will be able to get most things you could ever want or need in Alice Springs. With general supermarkets, grocery stores, markets, galleries and local shops, Alice Springs will not disappoint shoppers.

One of Australia's most highly regarded centres for Aboriginal arts, Alice Springs has a large concentration of shops along the central Todd Mall, with shops in Alice Springs selling a range of authentic local Australia souvenirs, such as didgeridoos, boomerangs and Aboriginal paintings. The main shopping centre in Alice Springs is situated close to the tourist office, around Hartley Street, Gregory Terrace and Todd Mall - a large pedestrianised shopping area.

Banks

Most major banks have a branch in Alice Springs, including Bank SA, Bendigo Bank, Commonwealth Bank, Westpac, ANZ and NAB.

CAFES AND RESTAURANTS

Alice Springs offers a range of different cafes and restaurants to suit all budgets. The Royal Flying Doctor Visitor Centre also has its own cafe.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Leisure and entertainment activities include hiking in the nearby MacDonnell Ranges, driving the four-wheel drive tracks at Finke Gorge National Park (to access stunning scenery including permanent waterholes and gorges) and visiting the many art galleries in Todd Mall.

Sights:

- Royal Flying Doctor Service Tourist Facility
- Telegraph Station Historical Reserve
- Alice Springs Memorial Cemetery
- Museum of Central Australia
- School of the Air
- Olive Pink Botanic Garden
- Telegraph Station
- Reptile Centre
- Old Ghan Museum
- Papunya Tula Artists

Events:

- Alice Springs' desert lifestyle has inspired several unique events, such as the Alice Desert Festival Camel Cup, the Henley-on-Todd Regatta, Beanie Festival and the Finke Desert Race. The Finke Desert Race is some 400 kilometres (250 mi) south of Alice Springs in the Simpson Desert.
- The Imparja Cup Cricket Carnival first was played in 1994 and attracts Indigenous teams from all across Australia.
- Locals also enjoy meeting up in Konjo Park for BBQ's every Sunday at 11am. This is an excellent time to meet and greet the locals who can quite often undertake games of Football and Frisbee.
- The annual Desert Mob Art Show sees art collectors and art lovers from all over the world travel to Alice Springs to see works from Aboriginal art centres in Central Australia, with works by artists from remote areas of the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. This show is in conjunction with the Artist Association Desert and usually runs in September of each year at the Araluen Art Centre.

ACCOMMODATION

Alice Springs offers everything from cheap backpacker accommodation to top hotel suites.

TRAVEL

Airlines

Qantas – flights to Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Perth, Ayers Rock (Uluru)

Bus Services

Greyhound Australia with daily services to and from Adelaide and Darwin

Train Services

The Ghan (operated by Great Southern Railway) runs services to Adelaide and Darwin

